

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

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S E C R E T KINSHASA 5770

PARIS PLEASE PASS UNSEC NEWSOM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, EFIN, SHUM, CG

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE DEMARCHE TO MOBUTU

REF: PARIS 17707

1. UNFORTUNATELY REFTTEL, SENT ROUTINE, DID NOT REACH US UNTIL THIS AFTERNOON. WE NEVERTHELESS OFFER FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON SUGGESTION OF JOINT DEMARCHE TO MOBUTU FOLLOWING PARIS MEETING.

2. AS WE PERCEIVE THE SCENARIO, AT PARIS WESTERN FIVE WILL HAVE DISCUSSED ECONOMIC REFORMS IN GENERAL TERMS AND REACHED AGREEMENT THAT SUCH REFORMS SHOULD BE ONE OF PRINCIPAL ISSUES ON AGENDA AT BRUSSELS MEETING OF DONORS JUNE 13-14. IDEA IS NOW TO PUT MOBUTU ON NOTICE TO THIS EFFECT, WITH VIEW TO GOZ'S BEING PREPARED FOR, AND HOPEFULLY RECEPTIVE TO, INCLUSION OF REFORMS AT BRUSSELS.

3. GIVEN SHORT TIME AVAILABLE BETWEEN NOW AND BRUSSELS MEETING, WE BELIEVE MOST THAT CAN BE DONE AT BRUSSELS IS TO TABLE PROPOSALS FOR REFORMS FOR EXPERTS TO CARRY BACK TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERN-

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MENTS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION. HOPEFULLY PRIOR TO MEETING WE COULD ACHIEVE A DEGREE OF CONSENSUS AMONG AT LEAST THE MAJOR DONORS (E.E., PARIS FIVE PLUS SAUDIS AND ONE OR TWO OTHERS) ON THE BROAD OUTLINES OF SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL REFORMS. BELGIANS, IN THEIR CAPACITY OF CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN AND COORDINATES OF MOBUTU PLAN PREPARATIONS, COULD AT SAME TIME CONSULT INFORMALLY RE REFORMS WITH GOZ OFFICIALS NOW IN BRUSSELS WORKING ON FINAL

DRAFT OF PLAN, NOTABLY PRESIDENCY DEPUTY DIRECTOR BOKANA AND BISENGIMANA, WHO WE UNDERSTAND IS ALSO INVOLVED.

4. WE BELIEVE BEST WAY TO ALERT MOBUTU TO OUR INTENTIONS TO FOCUS ON REFORMS IS IN CONTEXT OF A GENERAL READ-OUT OF PARIS DISCUSSIONS. HOW THIS IS DONE WILL BE IMPORTANT FROM STANDPOINT OF ELICITING A POSITIVE REACTION AND HIS ULTIMATE COOPERATION. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THE PROBABLY THAT MOBUTU'S CURRENT POSTURE IS THAT KOLWEZI JUSTIFIES HIS EXPECTATION THAT DONORS WILL BE LESS RATHER THAN MORE INCLINED TO BURDEN THE GOZ WITH ADDITIONAL DEMANDS FOR SACRIFICE AND REFORM. WE BELIEVE A JOINT DEMARCHE BY THE FIVE AMBASSADORS HERE MIGHT NOT RPT NOT BE WELL RECEIVED BY MOBUTU. HE DOES NOT REACT WELL TO PERCEPTION OF GOVERNMENTS "GANGING UP" ON HIM. MOREOVER, FROM PRACTICAL STANDPOINT, I AM NOT CONFIDENT THAT FRENCH AMBASSADOR, WHO IS THE DEAN OF THE GROUP, WOULD EITHER AGREE TO BE SPOKESMAN OR WOULD MAKE OUR POINTS ON REFORM IN THE WAY WE WISHED. INDIVIDUAL DEMARCHES TO MOBUTU WOULD PROBABLY BE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE GIVEN THE TIME CONSTRAINT, AND WOULD RISK MOBUTU'S GETTING SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT MESSAGES FROM DIFFERENT GOVERNMENTS.

5. WE BELIEVE BEST APPROACH WOULD BE FOR PARIS FIVE TO PRODUCE JOINT MEMORANDUM, OR LETTER, CONVEYING TO MOBUTU THE GIST OF THE RESULTS OF THE JUNE 5 DISCUSSION. THIS WOULD INCLUDE THE POINT THAT THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT AS PART OF THEIR CONSIDERATION AT BRUSSELS OF HOW BEST TO ASSIST ZAIRE, THE DONORS SHOULD REVIEW GOZ PROGRESS TO DATE IN IMPLEMENTING PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED REFORMS AND
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PROPOSE ADDITIONAL REFORMS THAT MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY TO MEET THE MORE URGENT ECONOMIC SITUATION CREATED BY THE SHABA ATTACK. THIS APPROACH WOULD HAVE THE VIRTUE OF BEING UNANIMOUSLY AGREED UPON BY THE PARIS FIVE, WOULD BE FREE FROM SUBJECTIVE INTERPRETATIONS RESULTING FROM ORAL PRESENTATION, WOULD LIMIT MOBUTU'S ABILITY TO PLAY ONE DONOR OFF AGAINST ANOTHER, AND WOULD SERVE AS COMMON, WRITTEN POINT OF REFERENCE FOR OUR FUTURE EFFORTS TO PROMOTE REFORMS. THE STATEMENT COULD BE PRESENTED EITHER DIRECTLY TO MOBUTU BY THE FRENCH AND BELGIANS AS HOSTS OF THE PARIS AND BRUSSELS MEETINGS, RESPECTIVELY, OR CONVEYED TO HIM VIA THE FOREIGN MINISTER.
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